

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199924
ORIGIN SS-25

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T - MRS. BENSON (SUBS)
NEA/IRN:CNAAS
NEA/RA:HPRECHT

-----009302 230034Z /65

O 222351Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199924

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, US

SUBJECT: AWACS ASSURANCES

1. SUCCEEDING PARAGRAPHS GIVE THE TEXT OF THE ASSURANCES WHICH WE PROPOSE TO SUBMIT IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR HUMPHREY'S REQUEST NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 7 WHEN AWACS LOA IS TO BE RESUBMITTED. IT IS POSSIBLE THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES IN THIS TEXT AS A RESULT OF SOME DISCUSSIONS NOT YET COMPLETED IN WASHINGTON, BUT WE ARE FAIRLY CONFIDENT THERE SHOULD BE NO MAJOR CHANGES. TEXT IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR REVIEW PRIOR TO GENERAL FISH'S ARRIVAL AND DISCUSSION WITH THE IRANIANS. HAVE JUST HAD ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH FISH, WHO LEAVES FOR TEHRAN IN FEW HOURS' TIME, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT, WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU, HE WILL BE ABLE TO SATISFY QUESTIONS TOUFANIAN MAY HAVE. THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 199924

FOLLOWING TEXT IS, OF COURSE, NOT TO BE PRESENTED TO IRANIANS ON "TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" BASIS; WE UNDERSTAND THEY WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSION WITH FISH AS PART OF A PROCESS OF CONSULTATION. ON OTHER HAND, HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DISSUADE THEM SHOULD THEY BE DISPOSED TO SEEK MAJOR CHANGES IN TEXT WHICH COULD CAUSE US SERIOUS PROBLEMS HERE. FINALLY, FISH WILL BE ABLE TO BRIEF YOU AND

INFORM IRANIANS OF THE COMPARATIVE SYSTEMS STUDY WHICH IS BEING PURSUED HERE AT CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST AS PART OF AWACS RESUBMISSION PACKAGE.

2. BEGIN TEXT

(1) ENCIPHERMENT GEAR AND OTHER SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT

U.S. GOVERNMENT ENCIPHERMENT GEAR (SUCH AS THE KG-40) WILL NOT BE INCLUDED ON THE AWACS SOLD TO IRAN. THE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY BOARD, AN INTERAGENCY BODY, HAS RULED THAT EFFICIENT AND SECURE ENCIPHERMENT EQUIPMENT FOR THE AWACS FOR IRAN SHOULD BE PROVIDED FROM U.S. COMMERCIAL SOURCES. THE U.S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS HAS PRODUCED DATA ON ENCRYPTION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL ENCIPHERMENT GEAR SUCH AS THAT TO BE ACQUIRED FOR THE IRANIAN AWACS. THOSE STANDARDS PROVIDE A HIGH LEVEL OF SECURITY.

THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT FROM THE U.S. AWACS WILL NOT BE INSTALLED ON THE IRANIAN VERSION:

U.S. GOVERNMENT ENCIPHERMENT GEAR
JOINT TACTICAL INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (JTIDS)
EXPANDED COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS
SIGNAL INTELLIGENCE (SIGINT)
ADDITIONAL ELECTRONIC COUNTER-COUNTER MEASURES (ECCM)
SECURE MODE OF IDENTIFICATION OF FRIEND AND FOE (IFF)
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 199924

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL INFORM THE CONGRESS AT LEAST 30 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF ANY PROPOSAL TO SELL TO IRAN NEW AWACS SUB-SYSTEMS WHICH ARE NOT NOW INCLUDED ON THE AWACS FOR IRAN OR NOT NOW AUTHORIZED FOR RELEASE TO IRAN.

THE ABSENCE OF THE EQUIPMENT LISTED ABOVE IN THE IRANIAN AWACS SIGNIFICANTLY MINIMIZES THE RISK OF USAF AWACS PERFORMANCE DEGRADATION THAT COULD RESULT FROM ANY SECURITY COMPROMISE OF THE IRANIAN AWACS.

(2) SECURITY PRECAUTIONS

THE UNITED STATES, IN COOPERATION WITH IRAN, WILL DEVELOP SPECIAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS THAT WILL ENSURE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF THE AWACS AIRCRAFT TO BE PURCHASED BY IRAN. THEY WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE IRANIAN AND U.S.-IRANIAN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH HAVE PROVIDED SATISFACTORY PROTECTION FOR ALL U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO IRAN.

THE FRAMEWORK FOR ALL SECURITY MEASURES--BOTH SPECIAL AND

NORMAL--IS THE U.S.-IRANIAN AGREEMENT OF JUNE 6, 1974, ON THE SAFEGUARDING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. IT PROVIDES THAT STRINGENT SECURITY PRECAUTIONS MUST BE OBSERVED BY IRAN WITH RESPECT TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES. INFORMATION IS SPECIFICALLY DEFINED IN ITS BROADEST SENSE TO ENCOMPASS CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT TRANSFERRED TO IRAN UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. IN PARTICULAR, THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR PERIODIC VISITS BY U.S. SECURITY EXPERTS TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES, EQUIPMENT, AND FACILITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, AND TO ENSURE THAT SUCH INFORMATION IS RECEIVING ADEQUATE PROTECTION. IRAN REQUESTED IN JANUARY 1977 THAT A TEAM OF U.S. PHYSICAL SECURITY EXPERTS SURVEY ALL IIAF FACILITIES FOR THIS PURPOSE. THAT SURVEY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 199924

IS UNDERWAY AT THIS TIME.

A JOINT U.S.-IRANIAN REVIEW OF AWACS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN SIGNS THE LOA. A PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED COVERING SUCH MATTERS AS PERSONNEL SECURITY, THE SECURITY OF FACILITIES, AND PERIODIC INSPECTIONS RELATING EXPRESSLY TO THE AWACS PROGRAM. THE U.S. AND IRAN HAVE AGREED THAT THESE ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE IN EFFECT BY THE TIME OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST AWACS AIRCRAFT IN IRAN. A JOINT U.S.-IRAN SECURITY CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ONE YEAR BEFORE DELIVERY OF THE FIRST AIRCRAFT. A REPORT OF THAT CONFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS.

FINALLY, THE U.S. RETAINS THE RIGHT UNDER THE STANDARD FORM FMS CONTRACT OF SALE TO CANCEL THE SALE IN THE EVENT THAT ADEQUATE SECURITY FOR AWACS IS NOT ACHIEVED.

(3) DEFENSIVE PURPOSES

SECTION 4 OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT, ENTITLED "PURPOSES FOR WHICH MILITARY SALES BY THE UNITED STATES ARE AUTHORIZED," ENUMERATES THE PERMITTED USES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES. THESE INCLUDE LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE BY THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY AND PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL OR COLLECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS OR MEASURES REQUESTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING OR RESTORING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. THESE LIMITED PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY U.S. LAW ARE SPECIFIED IN EACH FMS CONTRACT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN HAS ASSURED US THAT IT WILL SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVE THESE LIMITATIONS IN ITS USE OF AWACS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 199924

IN ADDITION, IRAN IS A PARTY TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION OF DECEMBER 7, 1944. ARTICLE 3(C) OF THAT CONVENTION PROVIDES WITH RESPECT TO STATE, E.G., MILITARY, AIRCRAFT, THAT "NO STATE AIRCRAFT OF A CONTRACTING STATE SHALL FLY OVER THE TERRITORY OF ANOTHER STATE...WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION BY SPECIAL AGREEMENT OR OTHERWISE, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS THEREOF."

(4) MULTIPLIER EFFECT

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE AWACS "MULTIPLIER EFFECT" IN CONSIDERING ANY FUTURE IRANIAN REQUEST FOR THE SALE OF ADDITIONAL SOPHISTICATED U.S. FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

(5) TRAINING

INITIAL CADRE TRAINING OF IRANIAN CREWS FOR THE AWACS WILL TAKE PLACE ENTIRELY IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL PROVIDE IRAN WITH THE MEANS TO DEVELOP ON ITS OWN CREW SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE AWACS IN IRAN. FOLLOW ON AND REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAMS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN IRAN BY THE PREVIOUSLY TRAINED IRANIAN CADRE. IF, FOR VALID PRACTICAL REASONS, U.S. PERSONNEL MUST ASSIST IN MAINTENANCE OR TRAINING FLIGHTS IN IRAN, THOSE FLIGHTS WILL BE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHED FROM OPERATIONAL MISSIONS. NO U.S. CITIZENS WILL PARTICIPATE IN ROUTINE OPERATIONAL MISSIONS OF THE IRANIAN AWACS IN IRAN AND NO U.S. PERSONNEL WILL PERFORM MAINTENANCE OR TRAINING FUNCTIONS ON BOARD AWACS OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS.

IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE IRANIAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO EXPEDITE THE TRAINING OF IRANIAN PERSONNEL AND TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS ASSIGNED TO IRAN TO SUPPORT THE AWACS. MOREOVER, AS THE PROGRAM DEVELOPS, THE USE OF AMERICAN AND IRANIAN PERSONNEL ALREADY IN IRAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 06 STATE 199924

WORKING ON THE BOEING 707 WILL BE EXPLOITED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERSONS REQUIRED FOR THE MAINTENANCE, LOGISTICS AND GROUND SUPPORT AND TRAINING.

(6) ABSORPTION CAPACITY

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE ARE UNDERTAKING A
DETAILED STUDY OF IRAN'S CAPACITY TO ABSORB HIGH
TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S.
TECHNICIANS. THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY WILL BE PROVIDED
TO THE CONGRESS BEFORE ANY ADDITIONAL REQUESTS ARE MADE
FOR THE SALE OF SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN.
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MASS, IR, US
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